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Letter dated 27 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the letter dated 17 November 2008 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (A/63/552-S/2008/718) transmitting an aide-memoire from its Ministry of Foreign Affairs relating to its application filed with the International Court of Justice against Greece concerning the implementation of article 11, paragraph 1, of the Interim Accord of 13 September 1995 (S/1995/794, annex I) and wish to submit the following:

By resolution 817 (1993), the Security Council recommended that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia be admitted to the United Nations under the provisional name "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", pending settlement of the difference that had arisen between the two countries over the name of this State, and emphasized that the issue should be resolved "in the interest of the maintenance of peaceful and good-neighbourly relations in the region". Furthermore, by resolution 845 (1993), the Security Council urged the parties "to continue their efforts under the auspices of the Secretary-General to arrive at a speedy settlement of the remaining issues".

With a view to establishing friendly bilateral relations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and reinforcing regional stability and cooperation, Greece signed, on 13 September 1995, an Interim Accord with this country. In this context, and pursuant to the above Security Council resolutions, a process of bilateral negotiations facilitated by the Secretary-General's Personal Representative was established with the aim of reaching a mutually acceptable solution over the name issue (article 5, para. 1, of the Interim Accord).

Greece, throughout this period, has participated constructively in these negotiations, conducted under the efforts of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Matthew Nimetz.

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Beginning on 1 November 2007, Mr. Nimetz accelerated his efforts to facilitate the finding of a mutually acceptable solution over the name issue by holding extensive consultations with the two parties on the basis of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the 1995 Interim Accord. In June 2008, Mr. Nimetz presented to the parties a detailed proposal, which the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia rejected immediately. Since then, and following further consultations, Mr. Nimetz has presented three versions of his proposal, which have also been rejected by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Greece, on its part, has provided Mr. Nimetz with a number of constructive comments and suggestions relating to his various proposals.

Moreover, since July 2008, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has raised a number of issues totally unrelated to the difference over the name in a clear effort to create confusion over the real issue at hand and to obstruct the process of negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations. These actions were taken with utter disregard for the relevant Security Council resolutions and at the expense of consolidating good-neighbourly relations between the two countries and maintaining peace and stability in the region of South-East Europe.

The present application of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the International Court of Justice is yet another attempt by its Government to further obstruct and delay the process of finding a mutually acceptable solution to the difference over its name, despite the recommendations of the above Security Council resolutions and the provisions of the 1995 Interim Accord.

Greece notes with deep regret that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has for more than 10 years continued to show blatant disrespect for the letter and spirit of the relevant Security Council resolutions, which clearly recommended the use of the above name for all purposes within the United Nations, by using consistently the name which constitutes the object of the difference before United Nations organs, including the International Court of Justice. It has also consistently violated the provisions of the 1995 Interim Accord, which form the very basis of its present application before the International Court of Justice. Nevertheless, the Government of Greece fully intends to exercise its right to present its case to the International Court of Justice.

Notwithstanding the above developments, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of Greece's commitment to the continuation of the process of negotiations within the framework of the United Nations with the aim of reaching a speedy and mutually acceptable solution over the name issue. I also wish to assure you that Greece, which has consistently participated constructively in these discussions, will continue to do so.

I should be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) John **Mourikis**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative